

**Co Chair's Senator Maroney, and Representative D'Agostino, Vice Chairs Sen. Fonfara and Rep. Brown, and Ranking Members Sen. Cicarella and Rep. Rutigliano,**

My name is Taylor Biniarz, I am from Ellington, CT and I am testifying today in support of HB 6615: AN ACT CONCERNING DOG RACING. Greyhound Racing is cruel and is illegal in 42 states as of now.

I know to some this bill may not make sense to concentrate on, as both greyhound racing facilities have been closed in the state since 2005 but we need to make sure this terrible practice doesn't ever find its way back in our state. With every state that prohibits it, it puts pressure on the states that still allow it and the states that still to this day practice it.

I do not own a greyhound though they are my favorite breed of dog, as I do not have the adequate space where I live to own one so it would not be fair to them. They need space to live as all animals do but they also need space to run, and most of the time when they are not racing they are living in a cage or a cramped kennel, up to 23 hours a day.

On the track they frequently experience injuries like a broken neck, spinal injuries, and broken legs. Due to poor living conditions they often have ticks, fleas and even parasites.

These facts are from 2008-2015, so know the real numbers are higher in 2023:

- There have been over 11,700 injuries in greyhound racing
- More than 3,000 dogs have had severe injuries such as the ones mentioned above but also including broken backs and crushed skulls
- In just those 7 years there have been 909 greyhound deaths.

When we think of dogs, we think of taking them for walks, playing with them, them growing up with kids. I was lucky as a kid and teen, I grew up with 3 different dogs that had such a great life. Our family often jokes about how the animals are treated better than the people. That horses and dogs are higher up on the hierarchy scale than kids and even spouses sometimes. I was often taught the phrase "have dogs not kids".

These dogs are not being treated the way we imagine when we think about puppies and dogs being raised and loved. These dogs are not loved at all they are used to make money and cared for in the bare minimum way to increase profits. The FBI has identified cruelty to animals as a sign of psychopathy so why is this even a question?

I understand that this is not currently an issue in CT but that doesn't mean we give it even a small chance to become one again, and this is the time to pass this bill regardless of it being a pressing issue in our state. We need to be part of this movement that puts a stop to such a cruel treatment of greyhounds.

I am actually against any forms of entertainment using animals not limited to dog racing, even being raised in a family where you ride before you walk, and I think horse racing is cruel and should also be banned which as you can imagine would create some interesting dinner conversations with my family. But greyhound racing is extremely cruel and needs to be banned now. Make Connecticut the next state to put a stop to it. Please support HB 66115

Thank you for your time,

Taylor Biniarz